

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 USIE-00 SSC-01 IO-11 SSO-00 NSCE-00

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FM AMCONSUL HAMBURG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2695

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE

USMISSION USBERLIN

AMCONSUL BREMEN

AMEMBASSY DUESSELDORF

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

AMCONSUL MUNICH

AMCONSUL STUTTGART

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E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT GW

SUBJECT: MINISTER-PRESIDE ERNST ALBRECHT OF LOWER SAXONY BUILDS
HIS CABINET

REF: HAMBURG 0153

1. ON FEBRUARY 9 MINISTER-PRESIDENT ERNST ALBRECHT
NOMINATED THE FOLLOWING FOUR CDU LANDTAG DEPUTIES TO
SERVE AS MEMBERS OF HIS CABINET. THE MINISATIONS RECEIVED
THE UNANIMOUS SUPPORT OF THE CDU LANDTAG FACTION IN HANNOVER:

WILFRIED HASSELMAN TO BE MINISTER FOR BUNDES RAT

AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR;

HERMANN SCHNIPKOWEIT TO BE MINISTER OF SOCIAL

WELFARE AFFAIRS;

DR. WERNER REMMERS TO BE MINISTER FOR CULTURAL

AFFAIRS, SCIENCES AND THE ARTS;

GERHARD GLUP TO BE MINISTER OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE

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AND FORESTRY.

2. TO SUCCEED HASSELMANN AS HIS PARTY'S FLOOR LEADER IN THE LANDTAG, THE CDU FACTION HAS ELECTED BRUNO BRANDES, WHO HAS BEEN A MEMBER OF THE LANDTAG SINCE 1963 AND WHO, ONCE BEFORE, FROM 1965 TO 1970, SERVED AS THE CDU FLOOR LEADER IN THE LANDTAG IN HANNOVER.

3. WE EXPECT THAT BY THE LATTER PART OF THIS WEEK ALBRECHT WILL NOMINATE A MINISTER OF FINANCE. THIS WILL THEN LEAVE HIM WITH TWO OR THREE CABINET POSITIONS TO BE FILLED.

4. ON FEBRUARY 10 FOREIGN MINISTER HANS DIETRICH GENSCHER, FEDERAL MINISTER OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS HANS FRIDERICH AND FEDERAL MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR WERNER MAIHOFFER TRAVELED TO HANNOVER TO APPLY PRESSURE ON ROETGER GROSS, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE FDP IN LOWER SAXONY, TO ACCEPT A CDU OFFER TO ENTER INTO A COALITION GOVERNMENT IN LOWER SAXONY. THE FDP NATIONAL LEADERS FAILED HOWEVER, TO CONVINCE GROSS THAT IN LOWER SAXONY THE FDP POLITICAL MARRIAGE OF CONVENIENCE WITH THE SPD WAS AUTOMATICALLY DISSOLVED BY THE CDU MAJORITY VICTORY ON FEBRUARY 6. FOLLOWING HIS CONFERENCE WITH THE FDP NATIONAL LEADERS, GROSS INFORMED THE PRESS THAT THE FDP IN LOWER SAXONY WOULD "REMAIN IN THE OPPOSITION TOGETHER WITH OUR FORMER COALITION PARTNER." GROSS THEN SLIGHTLY DISASSOCIATED HIMSELF FROM A CLOSE RELATIONSHIP WITH THE SPD BY COMMENTING THAT "THE FREE DEMOCRATS IN LOWER SAXONY WILL SUPPORT ALL LEGISLATIVE PROJECTS WHICH CAN BE RECONCILED WITH THE PARTY'S LIBERAL PRINCIPLES."

5. ALBRECHT MUST NOW GO IT ALONE AS THE HEAD OF A MINORITY GOVERNMENT. CONVERSATIONS WE HAVE HAD WITH HASSELMANN AND OTHER CDU PARTY LEADERS IN HANNOVER RECENTLY HAVE CONVINCED US THAT THIS DEVELOPMENT COMES AS NO SURPRISE TO ALBRECHT. INDEED, WE KNOW THAT ALBRECHT WOULD PREFER TO LEAD THE STATE GOVERNMENT FROM A MINORITY POSITION RATHER THAN TO MAKE HIMSELF DEPENDENT ON THE UNRELIABLE SUPPORT OF A CAPRICIOUS PARTNER. IN ANY CASE GROSS NOW SEEMS TO HAVE SENT UP SMOKE SIGNALS THAT ALBRECHT CAN, IN ANY CASE, RELY ON OCCASIONAL SUPPORT FOR HIS LEGISLATION ON A CASE-BY-CASE BASIS. BROGAN
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